

03500.013347.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: A. Ghee
NAOKI SHIMADA	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2622
Appln. No.: Unassigned (Divisional of	)	
Appln. No. 09/253,512 filed	:	
February 22, 1999)	)	
	:	
Filed: October 1, 2003	)	
	:	
For: PRINTING WITH A PLURALITY OF	)	
PRINTERS	:	October 1, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Examiner is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Each of the documents has been cited in parent Application No. 09/253,512. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not being provided herewith.

JP '232 and JP '240 were cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed July 16, 2002, in the parent application. JP '232 teaches dividing print data of a document

into groups and transmitting the groups of print data to a plurality of printers either in a first mode in which the page order of the document is maintained unchanged or in a second mode in which the groups are adjusted to have the same data amount. JP '240 teaches transmitting one or more copies of a document having a plurality of pages to each printer. These documents may also be relevant for the reasons summarized in their respective English Abstracts, which are enclosed.

US '472 and WO '481 were cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed August 2, 2000, in the parent application, and were listed in a Search Report of a corresponding European application. WO '481 was also listed in an Office Action of a corresponding Chinese application. A copy of the Chinese Office Action was submitted with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed September 26, 2002. The Examiner might find these documents relevant for the reasons noted therein. Copies of the Search Report and the Chinese Office Action are included for the Examiner's convenience.

US '194, US '348, US '212, US '996 and US '721 were cited by the Examiner in an Office Action dated January 15, 2002, in the parent application.

US '434, US '831, US '711, US '557 and US '631 were cited by the Examiner in an Office Action dated December 19, 2002, in the parent application.

US '721, US '723 and US '164 were cited by the Examiner with a Notice of Allowability dated July 15, 2003, in the parent application.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicant

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)Date Submitted to PTO: **October 1, 2003**

ATTY DOCKET NO.

**03500.013347.1**

DIVISIONAL OF APPLICATION NO.

**09/253,512**

APPLICANT

**NAOKI SHIMADA**

FILING DATE

**October 1, 2003**

GROUP

**2626**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,119,472	06/1992	OGAWA			
	5,287,194	02/1994	LOBIONDO	358	296	
	5,467,434	11/1995	HOWER, JR. ET AL.	358	1.15	
	5,574,831	11/1996	GRENDA	358	1.4	
	5,813,348	09/1998	ZINGHER	358	1.14	
	5,859,711	01/1999	BARRY ET AL.	358	296	
	5,881,212	03/1999	MORITA	358	1.12	
	5,978,557	11/1999	KATO	358	1.15	
	5,982,996	11/1999	SNYDERS	358	1.14	
	5,995,721	11/1999	ROURKE ET AL.	358	1.15	
	5,995,723	11/1999	SPERRY ET AL.	358	1.15	
	6,031,631	02/2000	TAHARA ET AL.	358	296	
	6,148,164	11/2000	SHIMA	399	82	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
5-73232	03/1993	JAPAN			ABSTRACT
8-263240	10/1996	JAPAN			ABSTRACT
WO 97/06481	02/1997	PCT			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.